

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for acknowledgment that the drawings are acceptable, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements by return of the Form PTO-1449. However, Applicants note that the Examiner did not initial next to the EPO document listed on the Form PTO-1449. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 to Applicants in the next Official Action.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5 and 8-19 contain allowable subject matter, on page 4 of the Official Action.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claims 1-4 and 20 were provisionally rejected under the “nonstatutory doctrine” of obviousness type double patenting over claims 11-14, 23-28 and 30 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/643,911. On pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action, claims 6 and 7 were provisionally rejected under the “nonstatutory doctrine” of obviousness type double patenting over claims 11-14, 23-28 and 30 of copending U.S.

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Application No. 10/643,911 in view of Japan 11-83223. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejections of claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 20 on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicants have submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, it is believed that the provisional rejections of claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 20 under the “nonstatutory doctrine” of obviousness type double patenting is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-20.

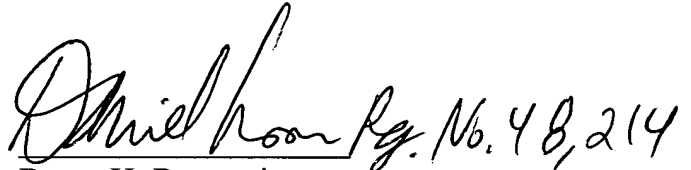
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present response, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of all of the claims in the present application are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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